

Broadcast DMAS-82

To: LDSS Directors and Eligibility Staff  
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Subject: Revised MA Processing Guidance for Afghan Immigrants  
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Acronyms used in this Broadcast:

CHIP – Children’s Health Insurance Program  
DBP – Division of Benefit Programs  
DMAS – Department of Medical Assistance Services  
FAMIS – Family Access to Medical Insurance Security  
LDSS – Local Departments of Social Services  
MA – Medical Assistance  
NOA – Notice of Action  
RMA – Refugee Medical Assistance  
RO – Reasonable Opportunity  
SIP – Special Immigrant Parolee  
SIV – Special Immigrant Visa  
SSN – Social Security Number  
VaCMS – Virginia Case Management System  
VCL – Verification Check List  
VDSS – Virginia Department of Social Services

This broadcast contains a revision to the broadcast on MA processing guidance for Afghan immigrants that was posted on September 29, 2021. **The revision is to the guidance regarding individuals without SI/SQ status who were paroled into the United States between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2022.**

The United States Congress passed a Continuing Resolution on Friday, October 1, 2021, that will allow those individuals with a humanitarian parole status to now receive full Medicaid (within certain parameters). Section 2502 of the [Continuing Resolution](#) provides that certain Afghan nationals who receive parole “shall be eligible

for resettlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other benefits available to refugees” until March 1, 2023 (or until their parole expires). This is the same language that Congress previously used with respect to Afghans who receive Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs), and so we interpret this language as including Medicaid/CHIP (known as FAMIS in Virginia).

Eligible parolees are those who either:

- Were paroled into the United States between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2022
- Are a qualifying relative of someone who received parole in that period (see CR section 2502(a)(1)(B)), even if they receive parole after Sept 30, 2022.

**In summary, all three immigration statuses listed in the previous guidance broadcast— SIV, Special (SI/SQ) Parole, and Humanitarian (non-SI/SQ) Parole — now confer eligibility for Medicaid/CHIP, Health Insurance Marketplace coverage (potentially with subsidies), and RMA.** The exception pertains to Humanitarian Parolees who arrived **before July 31, 2021**, who are eligible only for Medicaid coverage of emergency medical services and Health Insurance Marketplace coverage. It is expected that those individuals have already been enrolled in subsidized Marketplace coverage or have been granted asylum, which would make them eligible for Medicaid/CHIP without the 5-year bar.

For your convenience, the guidance in the previous broadcast dated September 29, 2021, and including the revision is below:

The following guidance is intended to aid in the processing of Medical Assistance for individuals from Afghanistan who have relocated to the United States. The majority of these individuals will fall into one of three groups:

1. Holders of a Special Immigrant Visa,
2. Special Immigrant Parolees, who are individuals granted Special Immigrant (SI/SQ) Parole (per section 602(B)(1) AAPA/Section 1059(a) NDAA 2006), and
3. Non Special Immigrant Parolees entering the United States without SI/SQ parole due to the urgent nature of their arrival (Humanitarian Parolee status) between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2022.

Individuals with (1) SIV status, (2) SIP status, and (3) Humanitarian Parolee Status issued between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2021, are qualified for evaluation in Medicaid and FAMIS without a five-year residency bar (provided that all other eligibility requirements are met). If an applicant is ineligible for Medicaid/CHIP, they may gain eligibility in Refugee Medical Assistance. Note: As of 09/16/21, the Office of New Americans has announced that the waiver extending the RMA enrollment period ends 09/30/21 meaning RMA enrollees are only eligible for the first eight months after arrival.

Children under 19 years and pregnant women with SIV, SIP, or Humanitarian status meet the definition of lawfully residing aliens for Medicaid and FAMIS/FAMIS MOMS coverage.

Afghan and Iraqi Special Immigrant visa holders will have either (1) a passport or I-94 form indicating category SI1, SI2, SI3, SQ1, SQ2, or SQ3 and bearing the Department of Homeland Security stamp or notation or an I-151 ("green card") indicating SI6, SI7, SI8, SQ6, SQ7, or SQ8.

Special Immigrant Parolees will have an I-94 form noting SQ or SI Parole (per section 602(B)(1) AAPA/Sec 1059(a) NDAA 2006).

If the individual has attested to eligible immigration status and is found otherwise eligible for Medicaid, but verification of that status cannot be obtained, do not deny or delay coverage. Enroll the individual and give a 90-day reasonable opportunity period.

System processes for enrolling these individuals will be posted as soon as they are available.

For additional questions or clarifications, please contact your Regional Practice Consultant.